



draft MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

3rd Floor Planning Conference Room

7447 E. Indian School Road

May 21, 2003

5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Dan Basinger, Board Chair. The presence of a quorum was noted.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dan Basinger, Chair
Don Manthe, Vice Chair
Lynn Ashby
Michele Cohen
Brian Munson
Michael Mulroy
Randy Nussbaum

City Staff Present: Larry Person
Monroe Warren
Brad Gessner
Anthony Floyd

Others Present: Bodo Diehn
Belle Starr
Roy McAlister
Andrea Tintle
Adam Munson
Bill Swahlen
Ron Hand

APPROVAL OF 3/19/03 MEETING MINUTES

On motion made by Vice Chair Board Member Manthe and seconded by Board Member Cohen, the minutes for the 3/19/03 meeting were approved as presented. The motion passed by a vote of three (6) to zero (0), with Vice Chair Manthe abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Green Building Report**

Mr. Floyd advised the Board Members that the Green Building Committee had discussed the new building code subsequent to a presentation by Dave Potter. He noted that the Committee concurred with those recommendations for the energy provisions of the code. He went on to note that plan review inspection integration is progressing well, and called attention to an editorial in the newspaper by Doug Sydnor indicating support for the plan review changes.

Mr. Hand stated that the remodeling guideline process was going well and that the subcommittee was working towards a deadline at the end of July. He also reminded the Board Members of the Expo event, which will take place in October 2004, and mentioned that the Solar Lecture Series would continue throughout the summer.

Mr. Floyd reported on the ongoing efforts to incorporate green building into city facilities. He noted that plans for the Senior Center, and the Craftsman Court parking structure were in progress. He explained that the City was working with SRP to provide funding to put solar panels on top of the parking structure. He also mentioned Part Three of the Desert Green production, which is airing on City Cable Eleven. He noted that Part Three takes the viewer into the field to view green projects.

Chair Basinger commented on the success of the Lecture Series. He advised the Board that they would review all of the members on the Green Building Committee for reappointment at the June meeting. Chair Basinger stated that one of the Committee members had asked about the possibility of staggered terms, suggesting the appointment of seven members for one year, and seven for two years to guarantee continuity on the Committee. He directed Mr. Floyd to prepare a resolution or change to the Bylaws indicating that appointment schedule for Board approval.

- **Noise Issues**

Board Member Nussbaum reported that he had contacted Mr. Pennartz for an opinion regarding this issue, but that he had not received a formal response. Mr. Person stated that Pat Boomsma, one of the City Attorneys,

had contacted him with an assurance that they were looking at the issue, but didn't know where to put it on the workload schedule.

Chair Basinger indicated that Citizen Neighborhood Resources was extending their study on noise issues and that he anticipated a report as soon as they had sufficient data.

Mr. Person informed the Board that he had received two contacts regarding noise. The first was a letter sent to the Mayor and City Council and referred to the Board, from Ruth Nicholazzi on behalf of her homeowner's association. She submitted a petition with 36 signatures calling for a ban on Go-peds in their neighborhood. He also reported on a telephone call from Clayton Geenen raising the issue of noise from motorcycles and heavy rigs using down shifting to brake on Shea Boulevard. He recommended that the City implement a decibel law with signage, perhaps to be used in conjunction with existing speed traps.

Mr. Swahlen addressed the Board and noted his concern regarding excessive motorcycle noise. He described the noise in his neighborhood as extremely intrusive and unpleasant. He spoke in favor of an ordinance outlawing these nuisances.

Chair Basinger commented that City Council has made it clear that enforcement is a key issue in relation to the noise ordinance discussions.

- **Sustainability Indicators Report**

Mr. Person explained that the final edit was in progress and that the Report now included 34 indicators, two more than in the previous report. He explained that the text and graphics were being revised for all 34 of the indicators, and that he hoped, with the assistance of intern Nick Rome, and Rick Forgus' assistance, to have a final draft at the next meeting.

Chair Basinger requested Board direction as to a presentation of the Indicators Report to City Council at their September meeting. The Board Members indicated support. Vice Chair Manthe noted that an excessive number of staff hours had been necessary to produce the report in the past, and asked if that would be true of future reports. Mr. Person responded that the editing had resulted in a more generic language, eliminating mention of specific years. He explained that in the future, all that would be necessary would be the addition of data from the current year, and that the process had been greatly simplified.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Procurement Code**

Mr. Warren reviewed the environmental purchasing policy and its relation to the procurement process. He distributed a list of environmental purchasing techniques that have been employed in the graphics operations, warehouse operations, and purchasing. Mr. Warren reviewed and explained the items listed, and pointed out the use of plastic railroad ties at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park as one of the changes he is most pleased with.

Mr. Warren responded to Board Member questions. Mr. Diehn inquired as to whether Mr. Warren asks for advice from the Environmental Office, as stated in the policy guidelines. Mr. Warren assured Mr. Diehn that he and Mr. Person work closely on procurement issues. Mr. Person added that he receives referrals weekly from Mr. Warren's staff for guidance. It was the consensus of the Board Members that internal education of employees regarding environmental issues would be beneficial at this time. Mr. Warren stated that procurement education classes would begin in July and that he was looking for environmental topics for inclusion in the classes.

- **SolFest**

Mr. Gessner discussed his commitment to green building and noted a small project at WestWorld where he hopes to utilize solar energy. He went on to state the importance of the acceptance and understanding of green building by City staff in all departments, but particularly those involved in capital improvements. He provided the Board Members with his background.

Mr. Gessner noted that he had spoken with Ms. Starr and agreed that WestWorld would be a good venue for the SolFest Event. He stated that as a cosponsor of the event, the City would waive the rental rates and would derive a profit from parking, food and beverage sales. He added that the Oversight Committee was very enthusiastic after Ms. Starr made her presentation for SolFest to them.

Ms. Starr explained that she had been involved in the production of SolFest in northern California for six years, and saw great benefit in bringing the event to Arizona. She described the event as an educational event that would bring many facets of the environmental systems into play. She noted plans to provide 55 workshops during the weekend of the event, with topics in green building, the natural home and renewable energy, social change, and food and farming. Ms. Starr stressed that the event would be family oriented, and that attendance for the first year was projected at 5,000 to 6,000.

Ms. Starr commented that in addition, she hoped to bring the spotlight to the Scottsdale area with perhaps an environmental awareness week featuring other activities such as Culture Quest and culminating in SolFest. She went on to explain several of the marketing tools being employed, from national ads to radio and local and regional print material. She noted that the dates for SolFest were April 16, 17, and 18, 2004, and expressed a hope that the

Beaulieu Hydrogen house would be completed by that time, allowing for a virtual reality tour.

- Hydrogen House

Mr. Roy McAlister presented the Board with a demonstration of a small-scale version of solar powered device utilizing energy transfer exchange. He characterized this device as representative of a process, which could, on a larger scale, produce electricity on demand with a concomitant benefit to the environment. Mr. McAlister explained the physics of several solar applications and noted the many benefits to be gained by use of such applications in terms of a safer, healthier, and more peaceful environment.

Mr. McAlister referred to the Beaulieu house, and defined a hydrogen house as a place where someone lives who is interested in a sustainable community. He stated that it could be any home, and that one important approach is to utilize solar energy.

Discussion ensued as to how the EQAB could most effectively support SolFest. Ms. Starr indicated that speaking to council members, policy makers and others involved in City government would be beneficial. Vice Chair Manthe suggested that staff meet with Ms. Starr and Mr. Gessner to obtain further information and to draft a resolution in support of SolFest. Mr. Hand added that the Green Building Program also supports SolFest and that he feels that endorsement would be helpful. Vice Chair Manthe agreed to work with Mr. Person to gather the appropriate information for the resolution.

Mr. Person commented that Valley Forward has headed the regional Earth Day event, but that the event has stagnated. He suggested moving the regional Earth Day events out of downtown Phoenix and putting them in Scottsdale on April 17 and 18 in synergy with SolFest. He proposed that this would breathe life into the Earth Day activities and perhaps save face for Valley Forward.

Mr. Gessner requested that the EQAB state its support to Council that any of the master plan improvements for WestWorld over the next ten years should have a policy attached to make every attempt to use green techniques. Chair Basinger directed Mr. Floyd to draft a resolution from the Green Building Committee to include Mr. Gessner's requests for presentation to the Board at its June meeting. He also suggested adding a reference to the Senior Center Project and the solar addition to the City's proposed parking structure

Mr. Person recalled Sandy Spain's efforts to form solar partnerships with APS and SRP and, as an element of that to provide educational interactive displays. He suggested that the education component of the City's solar project could be revitalized at WestWorld.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Vice Chair Manthe requested an update at the next meeting on the status of ESLO.

Board Member Cohen observed that the Board dealt with a variety of topics at each meeting, and that there was not always sufficient time to digest all of the material and set priorities. She suggested that perhaps that the other Board Members might be amenable to meeting in a different venue, perhaps a study session, to set direction for the Board. Chair Basinger agreed to include discussion of this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chair Basinger reminded the Board Members that the next regular meeting would be held on June 18, at 5:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Swahlen presented his comments to the Board earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made and duly seconded, the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Swanberg
Court Reporter